

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

In the specification, the title and a paragraph on page 6 have been amended.

Claims 1-15, 19 and 20 are requested to be cancelled. Claims 16-18 are currently being amended. Claims 21-27 are being added.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 16. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 16 to be in independent form, and thus submits that claim 16 and all of the remaining claims 17-18 and 21-27 depending therefrom are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1,83(a). Specifically, it was asserted that “the non-contact temperature sensor, located above the horizontal surface passing the rotation axis of the rotational heating member, shielded by a magnetic shield” is not shown. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Fig. 4 shows a non-contact temperature detector 12 having a temperature sensor 121 shielded by a shielding member 122 of a material that can magnetically shield the sensor (see page 9, line 34 – page 10, line 4). In addition, Fig. 5 shows that the non-contact temperature detector is preferably located above the horizontal surface passing the rotation axis of the rotational heating member (*see* horizontal line passing through the center of the heating roller 1). Accordingly, Applicants submit that all of the features noted in the objection are shown in the figures and thus requests that this objection be withdrawn.

The drawings were also objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because the reference numeral 13 is not mentioned in the description. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended Figs. 2, 8, and 9 to delete reference numeral 13. Accordingly, Applicants request that this objection be withdrawn.

A new title was required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended the title to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed, as required.

The disclosure was objected to due to a minor informality. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended the disclosure to correct the minor informality noted by the Examiner.

Claims 1-3, 6, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Peng et al. (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2004/0086295), claims 4, 10, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peng et al. in view of Ishizuka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,408,159), claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peng et al. in view of Birumachi (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0086718), claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peng et al. in view of Ishizuka et al. and further in view of Birumachi, claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peng et al. in view of Katayanagi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,816,699), claims 1, 6, 7, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Birumachi in view of Peng et al., claims 5, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over as being unpatentable over Birumachi in view of Peng et al. in view of Kouno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,915,147), claims 14, 15, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,819,136) in view of Peng et al., and claim 17 was rejected as being unpatentable over Tomita et al. in view of Peng et al. and further in view of Tsubakimoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,603,938). All of these rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-15 and 19-20 and the amendment of claims 16-18.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 2/27/06

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figures 2, 8, and 9 are being presented as a new formal drawing sheets to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheets. The drawing Figures 2, 8, and 9 have been amended. Appended to this amendment is an annotated copy of the previous drawing sheets which have been marked to show changes presented in the replacement sheets of the drawings.

The specific changes which have been made to Figure 2, 8, and 9 are to delete the reference numeral 13 and the element pointed to by reference numeral 13.



Title: IMAGE FORMING SYSTEM HAVING
A TEMPERATURE CONTROLLED FIXING
UNIT (as amended)

Inventor(s): Toshihiro SONE et al.

Appl. No.: 10/820,138

Sheet Showing Changes to the Drawings

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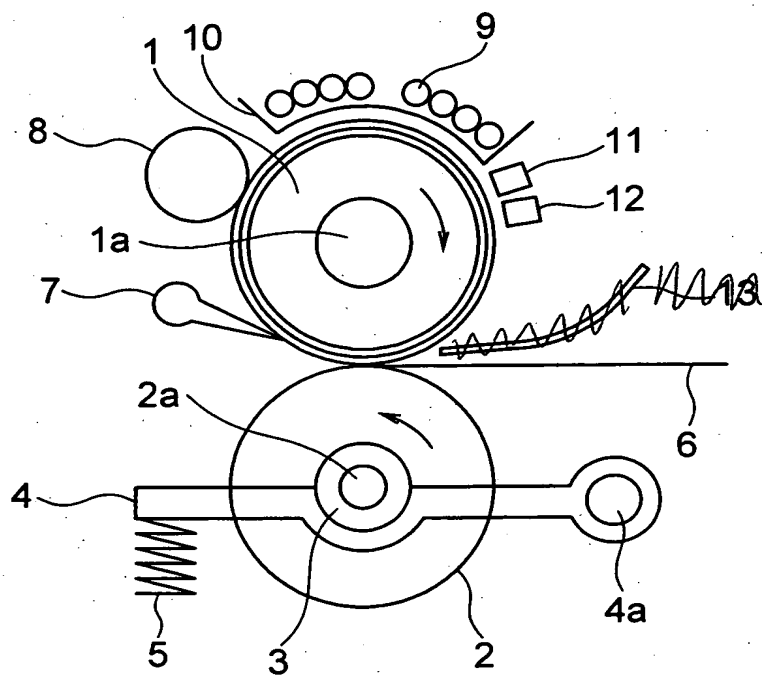


FIG. 2

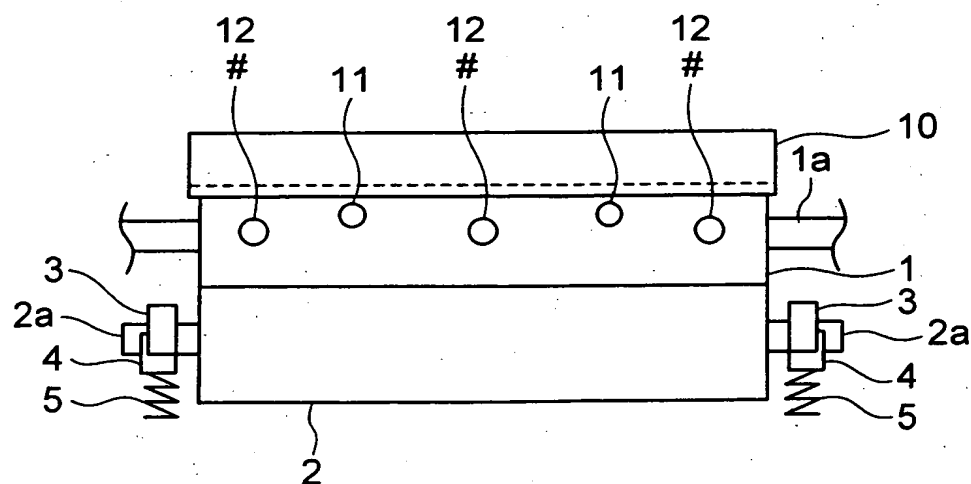


FIG. 3



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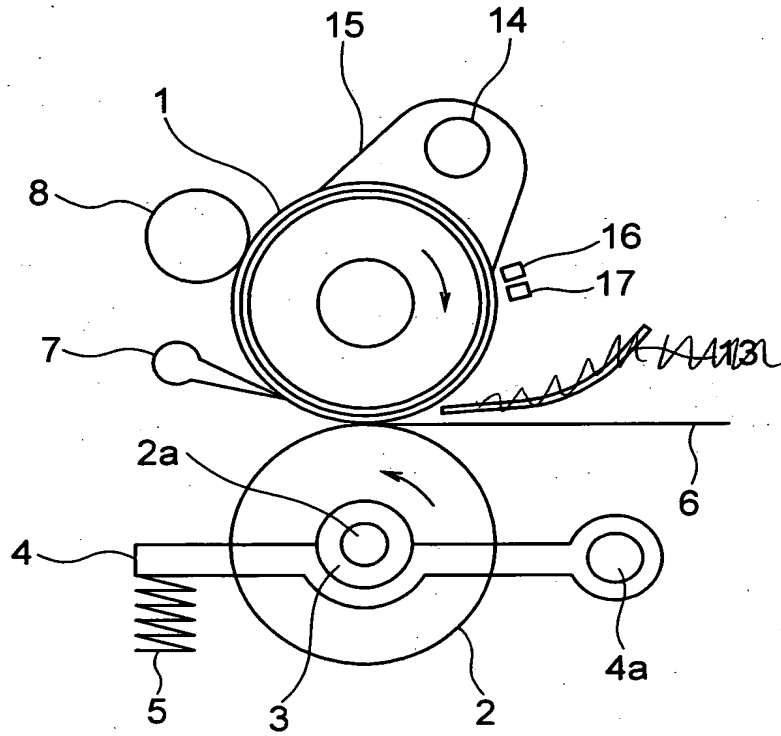


FIG. 8



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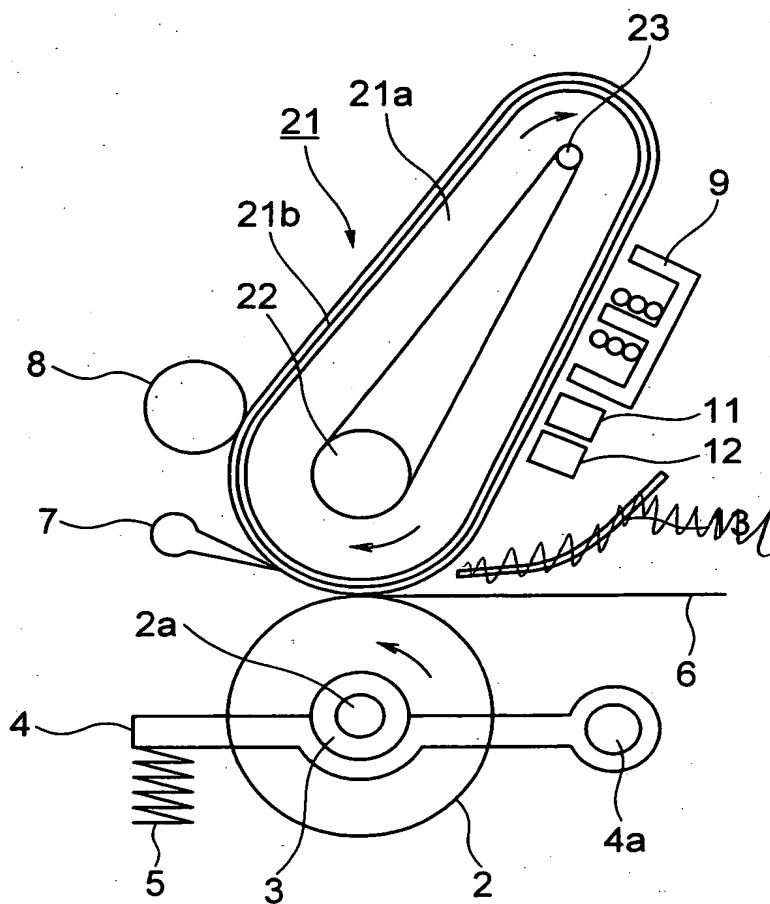


FIG. 9